

MUCH MYSTERY IN DEATH OF MAN WHO SHOT MORGAN — SHOT SELF OR LEAPED TO DEATH?

Mineola, N. Y., July 7.—Frank Holt, who attempted to assassinate J. Pierpont Morgan, Jr., to stop the furnishing of ammunition to the allies, and who has been partially identified as Prof. Erich Muentner, alleged wife murderer, committed suicide in his cell in the Nassau county jail last night. It was his second suicidal attempt in 24 hours.

Considerable mystery surrounds the method of Holt's suicide. It is now declared he killed himself by climbing through the opening at the top of his cell and plunging head down to the floor below, where his skull was crushed. At first, however, Holt's keeper said he was positive the prisoner was killed in his own cell where, he said, he found the body. It was also rumored that Holt had shot himself with a gun passed to him by a visitor, and that he had chewed a percussion cap.

Jeremiah O'Ryan, the keeper detailed to watch Holt, was absent from the cell for a few minutes. He said he was brought back by what sounded like the report of a gun and that he found Holt's body in a pool of blood in a corner of his cell. Later he modified the statement and said he found the body outside the cell.

Several others said they heard an explosion, but Dr. Cleghorn, the jail physician, and Warden Hulse said there was no truth in this. Cleghorn said Holt died of a hemorrhage of the brain caused by a depressed fracture of the skull.

On the floor of the cell a note was found written on a sheet of yellow paper and thought to have been written before Holt's first attempt at suicide in the morning. It read:

"My Dears—I must write once more. The more I think about it the more I see the uselessness of living under circumstances such as these. Bring up the dear babies in the love

of God and man. God bless you, my sweet. Affectionately, Frank.

"P. S.—All please pardon me for all the heartache I have brought you. Pray with me that the slaughter will stop. My heart breaks. Goodby."

It is unlikely now that the mystery surrounding Holt will ever be cleared up. His leap to the stone flagging beneath his cell tier mutilated his head, making it very improbable that old friends of Muentner, now on their way here, can identify the peace fanatic and the wife-murderer as the same man.

Holt's suicide came with the discovery of one of the most important clues in the case, the finding of a cottage near Hicksville where Holt had lived apparently for weeks and constructed the bomb that partially wrecked the capitol and practiced shooting at a target for the Morgan attack. From the Long Island cottage detectives traced Holt's black trunk to a warehouse in East 38th st. in which enough explosives to wreck several blocks were found. Inspector Eagen of the Bureau of Combustibles said that Holt must have been a student of bomb making for years.

J. P. Morgan is said to be progressing most favorably. He telephoned to business associates yesterday.

CHICAGO BRIEFS

John Pearson, 4, 2112 Addison, ran away yesterday to go to Riverview. Got lost. Found last night. Walked 8 miles.

Officials of Midway Gardens refused to discuss delayed dividends of company. \$20,000 stolen from safe yesterday.

Geo. Fullerton yesterday gave self up to police and said he had embezzled \$800 from Kimball hotel at Springfield, Mass. Said he had time of life. Is broke.

Unidentified man, 50, found dead in barn, Oak Park av. and Raven.